



## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

*These bulletins are purely informational for the maritime community within this Captain of the Port zone. They advise you of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System. As important, they help to manage expectations & facilitate cooperation regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security. Increased vigilance in our maritime world hinges significantly upon proactive engagement & information sharing with the private sector, which has the primary responsibility for security & safety at their waterfront facilities & vessels.*

**BULLETIN NO: 006-03**

**Date: March 18, 2003**

### **SUBJECT: TERRORIST THREAT ADVISORY UPDATE, BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

1. On Monday, Mar 17, 2003 the national threat level was raised from "**Elevated**" (yellow) to "**High**" (orange). The intelligence community believes that terrorists will attempt multiple attacks against U.S. & coalition targets worldwide in the event of a U.S.-led military campaign against Saddam Hussein. A large volume of reporting across a range of sources, some of which are highly reliable, indicates that Al-Qaida probably would attempt to launch terrorist attacks against U.S. interests claiming they were defending Muslims or the "Iraqi People" rather than Saddam Hussein's regime.
2. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in conjunction with numerous Departments of the Federal Government has begun implementing increased protective measures under a comprehensive national plan to protect the Homeland: "**OPERATION LIBERTY SHIELD.**" Operation Liberty Shield will increase security at our borders, strengthen transportation sector protections, enhance security at our critical infrastructure, increase public health preparedness & make sure all Federal response assets can be deployed quickly. These heightened security measures will help deter terrorism & increase protection of America & Americans. In the meantime, as on the other occasions when the national threat level has been increased, we encourage members of the public to continue their daily work, family & leisure activities with a heightened awareness.
3. While the March 1<sup>st</sup> arrest of senior Al-Qaida operative, Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KSM) has put the Al-Qaida senior leadership on the defensive – debilitating in the long term – the intelligence community believes that KSM's capture will not necessarily affect operations that are ready or nearly ready for execution. There are many recent indications that Al-Qaida's planning includes the use of chemical, biological and/or radiological materials. Intelligence reporting also indicates that while Al-Qaida & those sympathetic to their cause are a principal threat, Iraqi state agents, Iraqi surrogate groups, other regional extremist organizations & ad hoc groups or disgruntled individuals not connected to existing organizations or state agencies, may use this time period to conduct terrorist attacks against the U.S., or our interests abroad.
4. In recent months, there have been reports of suspicious activity in & around military facilities, ports, waterways, general infrastructure (bridges, dams, power generating facilities) & targets that are considered symbolic to U.S. power & influence. The discovery of Ricin production in London raises the concern of the intelligence community that extremists are planning to follow through on the longstanding threats of poison plots against U.S., British & Israeli interests, & possibly other targets in Europe.
5. Recipients are reminded to remain alert to the potential for such targeting. Information on suspicious activity possibly related to such targeting should be reported immediately to the nearest FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). State & local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to discuss appropriate measures for their communities with their designated JTTF.
6. **Transportation authorities & infrastructure owners & operators** are recommended to evaluate current security procedures & apply, as appropriate, protective measures that correspond to threat condition **High** (orange) under the homeland security advisory system. Additionally, since a terrorist attack could occur at any level, officials at transportation facilities should continue to report suspicious activities or persons to their local FBI field office. The U.S. Department of Transportation reminds members of the marine transportation system to report information concerning suspicious activity to their local FBI office through the FBI website <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> or to the national infrastructure protection center (NIPC) at its website <http://www.nipc.gov/incident/cirr.htm>.
7. Port Security Committee stakeholders & other members of the Maritime Industry are encouraged to review & implement appropriate security measures for "MARSEC 2" as recommended in the latest U.S. Coast Guard port security planning guidance.
8. The USCG continues to be on a heightened state of alert consistent with the current Homeland Security threat level. We are taking appropriate measures consistent with the existing security posture. The USCG is working with DHS, DOT, the FBI, & other security & law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of ports, waterways, & facilities. You are encouraged to continue close cooperation & coordination of necessary security efforts with your local/state law enforcement agencies. Report any suspicious activity to the Coast Guard via marine radio or via our 24-hour Coast Watch Hotlines or the National Response Center.

**Connecticut: (800) 774-8724.**

**Long Island, NY: (800) 697-8724.**

**Other areas: (800) 424-8802 (National Response Center)**

S. S. GRAHAM, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Captain of the Port